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## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides improved viral vectors useful for the expression of genes at high levels in human cells. In particular, the present invention provides recombinant adeno-associated vectors (AAV) suitable for gene therapy. These vectors are capable of delivering nucleic acid containing constructs which result in the production of full-length therapeutic levels of biologically active Factor VIII in the recipient individual *in vivo*. The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising such AAV vectors, as well as methods for making and using these constructs.